CLAIMS

1. A cell of the CHO cell line, characterized in that it has been deprived of a portion of the gene encoding for CMAH.

2. A cell of the CHO cell line, characterized in that it has been deprived of the portion of the gene encoding for the catalytic domain of CMAH.

3. A cell according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that it has been deprived of the gene sequence which encodes for the sites of binding to the substrate (CMP-N-acetyl-neuraminic acid) and to the cofactor (b5 cytochrome).

4. A cell according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it has been deprived of a portion of the gene encoding for CMAH that is disposed between part of exon 10 and part of exon 15.

5. A cell according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it has been deprived of the portion of the gene encoding for CMAH corresponding to the sequence disposed between bases 787 and 1598 of the cDNA of CMAH.

6. A cell according to Claim 5, characterized in that it has been deprived of the portion of the gene encoding for CMAH, the cDNA of which has the sequence: SEQ ID NO 1.

7. A cell according to Claim 5, characterized in that it has been deprived of the portion of the gene

encoding for the sequence of CMAH disposed between amino-acid 262 and amino-acid 532.

8. A cell according to Claim 5, characterized in that it has been deprived of the portion of the gene encoding for the portion of CMAH having the sequence: SEQ ID NO 2.

9. A cell according to any one of Claims 5 to 8, characterized in that the NCBI accession number of the cDNA is AJ242835.

10. A cell according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the portion of the gene coding for CMAH is absent from both alleles.

11. A cell according to any one of Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the gene sequence eliminated is replaced by at least one DNA sequence encoding for resistance to an antibiotic.

12. A cell according to Claim 11, characterized in that the antibiotic is zeocine.

13. Use of a cell according to any one of Claims 1 to 12 as a host in the expression of heterologous recombinant proteins.

14. Use in accordance with Claim 13 in the production of recombinant glycoconjugates.